

Marrying Well: Guys

The abbreviated notes of “A Guy’s Guide to Marrying Well”

“A Guy’s Guide to Marrying Well” is resource found on the Topical Resources page. We believe that reading the full document in its entirety will provide stronger clarity in finding a suitable spouse. The content on this page is a condensed version of the material and can be found in the original document under four sub-categories: intentionality, purity, Christian compatibility, and community.

Intentionality

1.) Marriage: More than just a lifestyle option- From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible assumes that marriage is normative for human beings. The responsibilities, duties, and joys of marriage are presented as matters of spiritual significance. From a Christian perspective, marriage must never be seen as a mere human invention—an option for those who choose such a high level of commitment—for it is an arena in which God’s glory is displayed in the right ordering of the man and the woman, and their glad reception of all that marriage means, gives, and requires.

2.) Men initiate- First, the man should initiate asking the woman out. Whether this means approaching the woman herself or her father or someone filling that role instead of her father, it should be the guy that starts things off. He should not do this until he is “ready” to marry. If you’re not ready to marry, you’re not ready to date. If you are floating around staying single because you enjoy social flexibility or having time to yourself or hanging out with the guys or because you have worldly ideas about the perfect woman or how to approach marriage, consider: Are you approaching manhood and marriage biblically? Initiation means initiation. It means that you as the man take the first step, risk and all.

3.) Don’t stay stuck in a friendship- Intimate friendship between men and women almost always produce confusion and frustration for at least one of the parties involved. They tend to involve the sharing of many aspects of each other’s daily lives and routines. In other words, they tend to involve much of the type of intimacy and companionship involved in—and meant for—marriage. Single men and women can and should serve in ministry together, study the Word together, and hang out together socially. They should go out together, gather around meals, watch movies. These activities should be done, for the most part, in groups rather than one-on-one. Men can initiate group get-togethers, and so can women.

Purity

1.) The seduction of porn- The pervasive plague of pornography represents one of the greatest moral challenges faced by the Christian church in the postmodern age. The sex drive, which should point toward covenant fidelity in marriage and all the goods associated with that most basic institution, has instead been corrupted to devastating effects. Rather than directed toward fidelity, covenantal commitment, procreation and the wonder of a one-flesh relationship, the sex drive has been degraded into a passion that robs God of His glory, celebrating the sensual at the expense of the spiritual, and setting what God had intended for good on a path that leads to destruction in the name of personal fulfillment. The Christian worldview must direct all consideration of sexuality to the institution of marriage. Marriage is not merely the arena for sexual activity, it is presented in Scripture as the divinely-designed arena for the display of God’s glory on earth as a man and a wife come together in a one-flesh relationship within the marriage covenant.

- 2.) Three reasons not to have physical intimacy outside of marriage-
- a.) We are made in the image of God-Everything we are and do images, or represents God. You are an image-bearer and a name-bearer.
 - b.) We are called to protect, not take advantage of, our sisters in Christ-Consider 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6, "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him."
 - c.) We need to guard our eyes and hearts and bodies for marriage-Single men must know now that what they do prior to marriage is not inconsequential to what happens in marriage. They will reap what they sow. So they must decide now to sow well. The short-term pleasure of physical intimacy outside of marriage must not be allowed to damage the prospects for long-term joy inside marriage.

Community

- 1.) Accountability is key-If you are in a relationship, you should insist that each of you begin to meet with others who know one or both of you well so that there will be consistent accountability and an outside perspective on how the relationship is going. Humble openness to accountability is essential to a godly relationship.
- 2.) Don't act married until you are-The biblical idea of marriage holds that relating to one another as if you were married begins when you *are* married. It's one of the things that makes marriage unique. For that reason, you shouldn't pursue deep emotional intimacy in the early stages of a relationship. It's not that you're being cold or dishonest, it's simply being cautious about living out a deeper commitment than truly exists between you.

Christian Compatibility

- 1.) The one?-Instead of asking if a girl you know is the one, you should ask yourself, "Am I the sort of man a godly woman would want to marry?" Start by considering the characteristics of an elder that Paul lays out in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, and work toward those. Then ask, "What sort of qualities should I be looking for in a wife so that my marriage will be a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church?" If you're not sure what those are, then read Proverbs 31, Titus 2:3-5, 1 Peter 3:1-7, and Ephesians 5:22-33.
- 2.) How do you decide to marry the woman you're dating?-Ask yourself a few questions: Will you be able to serve God better together than apart?; Do you desire to fulfill the biblical role of a husband outlined in Ephesians 5:22-33 with this specific woman? Do you want to love her sacrificially? Does this relationship spur you on in your Christian discipleship, or does it dull and distract your interest in the Lord and His people? Do you think she will make a good discipler of your children? What do other mature Christian friends and family members say about your relationship? Do they see a relationship that is spiritually solid and God-glorifying?

A Prayer for men who hope to marry well

Father in Heaven, you are the merciful, loving God of the universe. You are the giver of all good gifts. I praise you and thank you for saving me in Christ. Father, please make me a man who lives by your word and cares well for my sisters in Christ. By your spirit, help me to treat my sisters with absolute purity in friendship, in courtship and-for the one I trust you have given me-in marriage. Help me to honor all women today. Help me to move toward marriage with humility, care, courage, and purpose. Prepare me to love my wife, as Christ loves the church, tomorrow. All for your glory. In Christ's name, amen.